

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

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Devolution, Democracy and Delivery

Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People

Consultation Survey (Full)

Date of issue: 3 February 2015 Action required by: 23:59 on 28 April 2015 Overview The White Paper 'Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People' is the Welsh Government's statement of intent about the future of Local Government in Wales.

> The White Paper sets out the Welsh Government's proposals for reform in the following fields: local democracy, the roles and remuneration of Elected Members and senior officers, community governance and Community Councils, community rights, corporate improvement, service performance, scrutiny, audit, inspection and regulation, and finance.

How to respond or for This consultation covers a large number of matters. Many are of interest to the general further information public but some are technical in nature and may only to be of interest to Local Authorities. We have designed a web-based questionnaire in order to make both collecting and analysing responses easier.

> You may choose to address all the issues raised by this White Paper or to complete a shorter version of the questionnaire which focuses on the main matters of public interest. You will be able to choose your preferred option when you start the questionnaire. A word version is also available but we strongly encourage respondents to use the online questionnaire.

> To respond to the consultation please either complete the online form or request the accompanying questionnaire and return it

either by email to

or by post to

RLGProgramme@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Reforming Local Government Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff **CF10 3NQ**

This document is also available in a shorter, plain English version and a youth Further information and friendly version on the Welsh Government website.

related Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available documents on request.

Data protection How the views and information you give us will be used:

> Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

> The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

> Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

This is the consultation survey linked to the document *Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People*. It asks some initial questions to establish if you are an individual, a representative body or another type of organisation. It then goes on to ask questions related to themes within the White Paper. Some questions are yes/no, some ask you to express your agreement with a proposition along a 5-point scale, and some ask for your views and give a box in which to provide your thoughts.

Initial Questions

l ar	am replying on benair of:										
				lease tick wh Under 18	nich age b □ 26-3	-	ı fall into: 46-55	Г] 65+		
1.1		I am a member of the public,									
1.1		these are my individual views		18-25	□ 36-4	15 🗆	56-65		Prefer not to say		
			P	lease tell us	which Lo	cal Authori	ty Area you re	eside	e in:		
1.2		A Local Authority					y you represe				
1.3		A Community Council	P	ease state w	vhich Cor	nmunity C	ouncil you rep	orese	nt		
1.4		Political Group / Party	P	ease state th	he name	of the part	y you represe	ent			
1.5		Representative body, Professional Body or Association		lease state th	he name	of the bod	/				
1.6		Elected Member	P	ease state w	vhich Loc	al Authorit	y or Commun	ity C	ouncil you sit on		
1.7		Third Sector	P	ease state th	he name	of the orga	inisation you i	repre	esent		
1.8		Trades Union	P	ease state th	he name	of the Trac	les Union you	ı repi	resent		
1.9		Government Agency/ Other Public Sector Body	P	ease state th	he name	of the orga	inisation you i	repre	esent		
1.10		Other	P	lease provide	e additior	nal informa	tion				
		ponding on behalf of an									
	-	isation or representative group,									
		lid you gather the views of your pers or members of the public in									
		nding to this consultation?									
		se tell us which document you read:		Reforming I Paper)	Local Go	vernment:	Power to Loca	al Pe	ople (Full White		
				Reforming I Version)	Local Go	vernment:	Power to Loca	al Pe	ople (Summary		
				Changing L	ocal Gov	ernment (`	oung people	vers	ion of White Paper)		
Со	ntact	Details									
	Nam										
1.14	Posta	al address									
		phone number									
		il address									
	lara				· · ·						
	7 Consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report.										

Chapter 2: Balancing the Responsibilities of National and Local Government

Chapter 2 discusses the relationship between the different spheres of government in Wales and how this has developed since devolution in 1999. It clarifies the role of the Welsh Government as providing leadership, setting standards and defining a limited number of national expectations. It also examines the role of Local Government as an agent of change in their local areas, in their relationships with other public services and at the regional level, particularly city regions.

Sta	tus of Reformed Authorities						
					Yes	No	Don't Know
2.1	Do you think all Local Authorities in Wales shou	ld be know	n as Count	ies?			
2.2	If no, what is your reasoning to allow other titles	for reforme	ed Authoriti	es?			·
2.3	Do you think Local Authorities should be able to	nominate	the chair of	the	Yes	No	Don't Know
2.5	Council as a Mayor?	noninate					
Ger	neral Power of Competence				1	1	
					Yes	No	Don't Know
2.4	Should Local Authorities in Wales be granted a	general po	wer of com	petence?			
2.5	If yes, should there be any constraints on it?	0					
Der	regulation and Contracting Out Act Should the provisions of the Deregulation and C					1	
2.6	Yes	No	Don't Know				
2.7	Do you have any issues you wish to raise with r	egards to E	Deregulation	n and Cont	racting	Out?	>
Loc	al Authority Constitutions						
2.8	Can you identify any specific areas of official p the operation of Local Authorities more agile, op			t be chang	ged in c	order	to make
	what extent do you agree or disagree with the owing statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagı		Strongly Disagree
2.9	Local Authorities should set out in plain language their values and the principles they will use to operate in their constitution						
2.10	Local Authorities should set out how they intend to build a relationship with their communities						

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2.11 There is merit in reviewing the body of legislation relating to Local Government administration with a view to longer term consolidation and simplification					
2.12 Do you have any other proposals for extending should be considered?	the power	s or functio	ons of Loca	al Governm	ent which

Chapter 3: Renewing Democracy

Chapter 3 sets out the need for greater clarity in the roles and responsibilities for the leader, Cabinet members, elected members and the chief executive officer. It also sets out the benefits of improving diversity of Councillors. We also discuss the need to reduce the cost of politics and management in Local Government and to bring more consistency to the appointment and remuneration of senior officers.

Local Government Elections	S							
					4	5		on't
					years	yea		ow
3.1 What should be the cycle	e of elections to Local A	Authorities i	n Wales?					
			c		Yes	No	Dol Dol	
3.2 Should Local Authorities thirds?		lling basis,	for examp	le by				
3.3 If yes, how would this be	st operate in practice?							
Defining the Roles and Res		ader						
To what extent do you agree of following statements:	-	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	ee	Strong Disagr	
3.4 Where a candidate is see Leader of a Council they written manifesto setting to achieve	should produce a out what they intend							
3.5 Where a candidate is see Leader of a Council they manifesto orally to the Co election takes place	should present this puncil before the							
3.6 The Leader of a Council annual report setting out delivered against the ma	the achievements							
					Yes	No		on't Iow
3.7 Should the roles, respondefined in legislation?	nsibilities and duties of	Leaders/ E	lected May	yors be				
3.8 Should the Leader be re	equired to set objective	s for Cabin	et Member	rs?				
3.9 Should the Leader be re	equired to set objective	s for the Cl	nief Execut	ive?			C	
3.10 Should these objectives	be made public?							
3.11 Should the Leader be re achievement of these of		port to full	Council on	the				
3.12 Are there any other gen	eric duties that should	be included	d in the role	e of the Lea	ader?			
Defining the Roles and Res	ponsibilities of Cabin	et Membei	rs					
		lution of Or	hin at Man		Yes	No		on't Iow
3.13 Should the generic roles defined in legislation?	•							
3.14 What generic duties sho	buld be included in the	role of a Ca	abinet Men	nber?				

	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr		Strongly Disagree	
3.15	There should be greater consistency in the number of Cabinet posts in the reformed Local Authorities							
2.46	Chauld the maximum number of Cabinet Mem	hara aanjin	a on o l oo	ol	Yes	No	Don't Know	
3.10	Should the maximum number of Cabinet Mem Authority (currently 10) be reduced?		g on a Loc	ai				
3.17		net Membe	rs?					
3.18	What is the reason for your suggestion?							
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr		Strongly Disagree	
3.19	Some Cabinet posts should be considered as 'Deputy' or 'Junior' 'positions as an opportunity to develop a wider cadre of future political leaders							
3.20	'Deputy' or 'Junior' posts should be considered as part time positions to reflect a lower level of responsibility							
3.21	Should the public service Academi be asked to	nt	Yes	No	Don't Know			
0.21	programme to support future political leaders?			int int				
3.22	What do you think the Public Service Academi	developme	ent progran	nme look li	ke?			
Defir	ning the Roles and Responsibilities of Electe	d Member	'S					
3 23	Should the generic roles, responsibilities and c	luties of Ele	ected Mem	bers be	Yes	No	Don't Know	
0.20	defined in legislation?							
What	t do you think should be included in the role of t	he Elected	Member?		Yes	No	Don't Know	
3.24	Regularly communicating with constituents							
3.25	Regular surgeries							
3.26	Participation in Community Governance							
3.27 Participation in committees								
3.28 Attending core training skills sessions								
3.29	Are there any other aspects you think should b	e included	in the role	of the Elec	ted Me	nber	?:	
					Yes	No	Don't Know	
3.30	Should all Elected Members be required to pro	duce an Ai	nnual Repo	ort?				

Stan	dards Committees							
follov	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
3.31	The powers of Standards Committees should be enhanced to enable them to consider	\boxtimes						
	cases where there is a allegation of a Councillor failing to fulfil their duties satisfactorily							
3.32	If you agree, how should their powers be enha	nced?						
3.33	What sanctions might there be for Councillors	failing to fu	lfil their dut	ties satisfac				
3.34	Where internal processes have failed to operate	te satisfact	orilv should	there be	Yes N	o Don't Know		
-	a role for an independent body?							
3.35	If yes, in what circumstances should they be in	ivolved?						
3.36	Who do you think would be best placed to und	ertake this	role?					
Reca	ll							
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
3.37	There should be a system by which the public could recall a councillor during their term of office and trigger a by election							
3.38	How might this work in practice?	I	L		I			
Equa	ality and Diversity							
To w	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
3.39	Leaders should be placed under a duty to have regard to diversity when appointing their Cabinet							
3.40	Where it is not possible to put forward a diverse Cabinet, Leaders should consider co-opting members to provide advice and support decision making							
3.41	If you are supportive of co-opting on Cabinets	how would	this best w	ork in prac	tice?			
3.42	How should Group Leaders be required to con	sider divers	sity?					
follov	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
3.43	Local Authorities should be placed under a duty to promote engagement with democracy							
3.44	Local Authorities should be required to establish Youth Councils							
3.45	Devolved public service organisations should be required to release staff to serve as Local Authority Councillors							

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3.46	Devolved public service organisations should be required to release staff to serve as Community Councillors]						
3.47	All organisations (public, private and third sector) should be encouraged to release staff to serve as Councillors]						
Rem]		l			
		n rev	viewing	n Coui	ncillo	rs remu	ner	ation?			
0.10				y 000	lonio						
Num	ber of Elected Members										
								Yes	N	0	Don't Know
3.49	Do you agree the number of Elected Members	in W	/ales s	hould	be re	educed	?]	
3.50								cted Me	mbe	ers	>
				•							
Term	Limits for Elected Members										
Do y	Do you agree with the following proposals for term Yes No Alternative Don't limits:										
limits								limit		Kı	างพ
			Г	F							
3.51	e requirée to release staff to serve as imported to release staff to serve as imported to release staff imported to release to release staff imported to release to release staff imported to release a Assembly. Members imported to releate to release staff imported to releate of the release in the local information releated to release staff imported to release staff imported to releate of the release include imported to releate of the release include imported to releate to release staff imported to releate to releate staff imported to releate to releate to release staff imported to releate to releate staff imported to releate to releate to r										
2 5 2	Cobinet Members (2 consequitive terms)										
3.52	Cabinet Members (2 consecutive terms)								_		
3.53	Leaders/ Elected Mayors (2 consecutive terms)									
		et Members (5 consecutive terms)									
		Str	ongly	Agr	ee	Neithe	ər	Disagr	ee	St	rongly
follov	ving statements:	Iected Mayors (2 consecutive terms) Iected Mayors (2 consecutive terms) Ications o you agree or disagree with the ents: Agree Agree Agree Disagr 								Dis	sagree
0.54	Convine moments of Local Authorities should	vith the Strongly Agree Neith Agree Disagr				ee					
3.54	0	nsecutive terms) nsecutive terms) rs (2 consecutive terms) or disagree with the Strongly Agree Cal Authorities should Assembly Members									
]						
	Authority.										
3.55											
]						
Role		<u> </u>]							
								Yes	N	o l	Don't
	o you agree with the following proposals for term nits: Yes No Alternative limit Don't Know 51 Elected Members (5 consecutive terms) Image: specify										
3.56		Loc	al Auth	nority l	be de	efined in	1			1	
	legislation?								L	1	
Shou	Id the role of Chief Executive Officer include:										
3.57	Responsibility as Head of Paid Service?]	
3.58	· · · · ·	and	Retur	ning C	ffice	r?]	
3.59				Ŭ]	
	• • • •		remen	t to:							
3.60										1	
3.61	Make arrangements to prepare annual self-ass		ments	of cor	oorat	e and					
3.62		ocrac	y withi	n a Lo	cal A	Authority	/]	

	3.63 Commission a peer review every two years and prepare a report for the Council on actions to be taken following the recommendations of the pereview?									
	.64 Put in place a performance management system for all employees of Local Authority? erm Limits of Chief Executive									
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disa	gree		Strongly Disagree		
3.65	Arrangements should be put in place to limit the length of time a Chief Executive can serve									
3.66	Arrangements should be put in place to set a term period which would lead to review before re-appointment of a Local Authority Chief Executive could be considered									
Snou	Id the Public Service Staff Commission be aske	ed to exploi	re:		Yes	N	-	Don't Know		
3.67	Arrangements for appointing Chief Executive C									
3.68	The appropriateness of limiting the length of an Executive Officer?	••					ב			
3.69	69 The appropriateness of setting a term period which would lead to review before re-appointment could be considered? emuneration of Senior Managers									
	Remuneration of Senior Managers		Die							
	extent do you agree or disagree with the strongly Agree Agree or Agree or Disagree or Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree					
3.70	There should be greater consistency in the number of senior officer posts in the reformed Local Authorities									
3.71	There should be greater consistency in the salaries of senior officer posts (including Chief Executive Officer posts) in the reformed Local Authorities									
3.72	There should be a national framework to guide salary scales for all chief officer posts									
3.73	Local Authorities should be required to consult an independent advisory body on the salaries of all chief officers									
3.74	What would be an appropriate mechanism for Authorities to consult an independent advisory						n for	Local		
Seni	or Officer Appointments									
To w follov	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disa	gree		ongly agree		
	There should be greater consistency in the appointment process of senior officer posts (including Chief Executive posts) in the reformed Local Authorities									
mech	der of preference, which of the following do you nanism to support senior officer appointments:				1st	2nd	3rc	l 4th		
3.76	A Public Sector Appointments Commission wo had the right leadership skills and competencie		all senior	officers						

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	Senior officers would be employed on a common basis and posted to an organisation, individuals would be moved across the public service as demand required (similar to the New Zealand case study).				
3.77	A Public Sector Appointments Commission would ensure all senior officers had the right leadership skills and competencies.				
	Local Authorities would then make appointments from the pool of approved candidates.				
3.78	A Common Assessment Framework and process to establish a consistent approach to the appointment of senior officers.				
	Local Authorities would have responsibility for making appointments of senior staff.				
3.79	Other		П		
3.80	What other mechanism do you think should be used to support senior officer ap	point	ment	?	

Chapter 4: Connecting with Communities

Chapter 4 sets out our vision for a new relationship between local communities and Local Government in Wales, where larger Authorities are closer to their communities than is the case at present. This includes discussion of the role of Elected Members in leading this. We also discuss the need to raise the ambition of Community Councils so they are better placed to deliver important community services in the future. This means building their capacity and capability, as well as strengthening their governance and engagement with other services and the third sector.

Mem	ber Led Community Governance					
To w	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4.1	Local Authorities should develop, adopt and implement a neighbourhood management or similar approach to engaging with citizens to identify, prioritise and address particular local issues					
4.2	An inclusive and participative neighbourhood or area approach, led by Elected Members, is a model of community governance which should be adopted by all Local Authorities in Wales					
4.3	Community bodies, the third sector or other public services should have an equal place in neighbourhood area approaches					
4.4	Local Authorities should have responsibility for how community governance is designed in their area					
4.5	Member-led community governance is an essential part of local democracy					
4.6	Communities which will be identified under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill should form the basis for Local Authorities' Member-led Area Boards in the future					
4.7	Neighbourhood area approaches should be able to facilitate place based budgets					
4.8	Local Authorities should seek to rationalise the number of partnership arrangements that it works with					
4.9	A national framework which requires Local Authorities to put in place a community governance system meeting certain guidelines should be established					
4.10	What should be included within a national fram	nework?			•	
4.11	How best can Elected Members support their of	communitie	s to do mo	re?		

Revi	ew of Community Councils						
	,				Yes	N	o Don't Know
4.12	Should Local Authorities review the role, struct Community Councils within their areas?	ure, scope	and gover	nance of			
1 13	Should this review be completed by 2022?						
	If no, what do you think the timescale should community level reform?	d be for the	e impleme	ntation of			
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree
4.15	Community Council areas should be merged or enlarged						
Com	petent Community Councils						
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree
4.16	competency tests in return for greater rights and responsibilities						
4.17	Only 'competent' Community Councils in Wales should be granted a general power of competence						
4.18	If Community Councils in Wales are granted a constraints on it?	a general p	ower of co	ompetence	, what	shou	ld be the
follov	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements: <i>munity Councils should be subject to a</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree
	Democracy test: at least two-thirds of the Councillors on a Community Council have been declared elected at either an ordinary election or a by-election						
4.20	Capability test: the Community Council must employ a clerk with relevant professional qualifications						
4.21	Capacity test: the Community Council has a minimum annual budget of at least £200,000						
4.22	Governance test: the Community Council has implemented a sound system of financial management and internal control in line with statutory requirements, and meets certain other criteria such as having a website on which it publishes agendas, minutes and accounts and being contactable by email.						
4.23	Are there any other 'competency' tests that you	u believe w	ould be rel	evant?			

					Yes	N	o Don't Know		
4.24	Should competent Community Councils be req effect and notify their Local Authority?	•							
4.25	Should competent Community Councils be req continue to demonstrate 'competence' to their	Local Authoria	ority?						
4.26	Should Local Authorities be able to revoke a c status if they are not satisfied?	ompetent (Community	Councils					
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagi	ree	Strongly Disagree		
4.27	Governance and transparency arrangements should apply to Community Councils								
4.28	The public should have a right to attend, speak at and record meetings of their Community Council								
4.29	The Chair of the Community Council should be required to publish an annual report, which could also incorporate the reporting requirement proposed in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill								
4.30	The Chair of the Community Council should be required to set performance objectives for the clerk of the Community Council								
4.31	The legislative framework governing community polls should be reviewed								
	toral Qualifications			1					
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree		
4.32	be able to become a member on a Community Council <u>and</u> continue their position in the Local Authority								
4.33	Serving members of a Community Council should only be able to be a member of <u>one</u> Community Council								

Chapter 5: Power to Local Communities

Chapter 5 sets out the way in which communities can engage Local Authorities in joint endeavour and how people can protect land and property of community value for the future. We intend to achieve this by giving community bodies a number of rights which they can exercise in relation to services and assets.

Community Bodies									
5.1 Do you agree Community Bodies should be sub				Yes	No		Don't Know		
before they could take a more active role in deli assets?	vering serv	ices or pur	chasing]			
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: <i>Community bodies would need to demonstrate:</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagı	ree		rongly sagree		
5.2 Appropriate standards of governance									
5.3 Appropriate standards of financial management									
5.4 Appropriate standards of openness and transparency									
5.5 Representative local membership									
5.6 Are there any other 'competency' tests that you believe would be relevant?									
Community Participation									
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagi	ree		rongly sagree		
5.7 Community bodies should be able to request involvement in the development and delivery of local services									
5.8 Local Authority should be required to respond to these requests									
5.9 What is the role of Elected Members in facilitating	ng requests	for comm	unity partic	ipation?)				
Asset Transfer									
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagi	ree		rongly sagree		
5.10 Community bodies should be able to initiate the transfer of assets from a Local Authority									
5.11 Community bodies should have the right of 'first refusal' of community assets that are on the private market									
5.12 What is the role of Elected Members in facilitating	ng requests	for comm	unity asset	transfe	r?				
				Yes	No		Don't Know		
5.13 Local Authorities should be required to establish and maintain a register of community interests?									

Chapter 6: Corporate Governance and Improvement

Chapter 6 discusses how Local Authorities might be best supported to improve their corporate capability and capacity. We believe effective leadership is the most important driver for ensuring Local Authorities are able to provide sustainable outcomes for local areas.

Corporate Governance							
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree	
6.1 The proportion of independent members sitting on a Local Authority's Audit Committee should be increased							
6.2 The Chair of a Local Authority's Audit Committee should be an independent member							
	At least 2 people	1/4 of the Committee	1/3 of the Committee	Othe	r	Don't Know	
6.3 What proportion of the Audit Committee should be independent?				Pleas spec			
6.4 What is the rationale for your answers?							
Self-Assessment and Peer Review					r		
6.5 Do you agree that responsibility for effective p with the Local Authority, as does responsibility			•	Yes	N	o Don't Know	
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagı	ree	Strongly Disagree	
6.6 Self-assessment is an appropriate mechanism for organisations to use to consider their current levels of capacity and capability							
6.7 Peer Review is an appropriate mechanism for organisations to use to challenge this self-assessment							
Self Assessment and peer review should consider:				Yes	N	o Don't Know	
6.8 Strategic Vision for the Authority							
6.9 Corporate planning, including financial manage	ement						
6.10 Governance arrangements							
6.11 Quality and timeliness of management and se							
6.12 Leadership, recruitment, talent development a	nd retention						
6.13 Equality and diversity							
6.14 Efficiency							
6.15 Procurement and the value for money delivere third party expenditure	6.15 Procurement and the value for money deliveret to local communities through third party expenditure						
6.16 Engagement with the public, workforce and pa	rtners						
6.17 Responding to demographic, financial and der							

6.18 Service innovation									
6.19 Effective working arrangements with other Publ	lic Services								
				Yes	No	Don't Know			
6.20 Should a self-assessment be undertaken each	year?								
6.21 Should a peer-review be undertaken biennially	(every othe	r year)?							
6.22 Should the Chief Executive be required to provi matters of concern as a result of a self-assessn									
6.23 Should these reports be considered by full Cou	ncil?								
6.24 Should these reports be considered by the Loca	al Authority	s Audit Co	mmittee?						
6.25 Should these reports be made public?									
6.26 How should self-assessment and peer assess improvement?				·	-				
6.27 How should Local Authorities be supported to build expertise in self-assessment and peer review?									
6.28 How could Welsh Government best support Loo	cal Authorit	es to impro	ove?						
Power to Intervene		P	F						
				Yes	No	Don't Know			
6.29 Do you agree that in some circumstances Minis Local Authority is showing signs of failure?	sters should	intervene	where a						
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the	Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disag		Strongly			
following statements:	Agree		Agree or Disagree			Disagree			
6.30 Commissioning an independent review is the correct mechanism to establish if a Local Authority is in need of support									
Which of the following triggers should be used to es	tablish an ir	ndependen	t review:	Yes	No	Don't Know			
6.31 The performance of an Authority lagging signific behind its peers in key areas	cantly, or fo	r a sustain	ed period,						
6.32 Where there are concerns raised by the Author	ity itself or i	ts Member	s						
6.33 Where information and intelligence provided by identifies concerns	external re	view bodie	S						
6.34 Where concerns are raised through whistleblow	ving								
6.35 Where there is significant public concern about	an issue								
6.36 Are there any other issues which you consider	to be trigge	rs for a rev	iew?						
				Yes	No	Don't Know			
6.37 Do you agree that the findings from an indepen prompt Ministerial support and intervention?	dent review	should be	used to						
6.38 How could the Local Government and Support proposals?	and Interve	ntion Proto	col be revi	sed to r	eflect	these			

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

6.39 What elements of Part 1 of the 2009 Measure which should be restated within this new system?

6.40 Could these elements be built upon?

Chapter 7: Performance in Local Government

Chapter 7 discusses the importance of information to deliver better outcomes for local areas. It does not discuss specific measures, but instead sets out how performance information can be used to best effect by the Local Authority, its scrutiny committees, the public, external review bodies and other interested stakeholders. Key to this is effective corporate planning which should use information and data to inform decisions and policy development.

Corporate Planning							
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree	
7.1 Local Authorities should be required to produce a Corporate Plan							
Should the following categories be included within a		Yes	No	Don't Know			
7.2 Strategic population outcomes for the area, as a plan			l-being				
7.3 Corporate priorities for service delivery and imp language standards, and the steps to achieve th being plan							
7.4 Financial management plans, including medium corporate procurement strategies and asset ma	ng,						
7.5 Workforce plans, including the strategic equalities plan							
7.6 The risk register							
7.7 Existing service performance and benchmarking data							
7.8 Public engagement strategy, including in relation to setting of annual budgets and council tax							
7.9 Planned performance levels for the short, media	um and long	g term					
7.10 An Annual Report setting out achievements and previous year, which could also be used discha proposed duty under the Well-being of Future G report on how they have delivered their objectiv the sustainability principle	rge the Loc enerations	al Authorit <u>y</u> (Wales) B	∕'s ill to				
7.11 Are there any other categories that should be in	cluded with	nin a Corpo	rate Plan?			·	
Corporate Plans should include information that is :				Yes	N	Don't Know	
7.12 short term							
7.13 medium term							
7.14 long term]	
7.15 How would the corporate plan be best presente	d and used	in engagir	ng with the	public?		·	

Single Information Portal								
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	ee		rongly sagree	
7.16 Local Authorities should all produce information on performance levels and outcomes using the same data definitions.								
7.17 Local Authorities should all produce information on performance levels and outcomes using a consistent format and at the same time to allow for comparison.								
7.18 A single information portal would be a useful mechanism to provide regular, timely, and comparable information on a Local Authority area and Authorities across Wales to support and challenge performance in an area.								
A single information portal should include information		Yes	N	0	Don't Know			
7.19 Standardised performance data								
7.20 Complaints]				
7.21 Reports from audit, inspection and regulation be								
7.22 Self-assessment and peer review reports								
7.23 Information on upcoming inspections and audits								
7.24 Other (Please specify)7.25 In addition to information on performance, is the single information portal?	ere any oth	er informat	ion that sho	ould be	incl	ude	d on a	
Minimum Performance Outcomes	Otrasala	A	N La itila a m	Dia		01		
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	ee		rongly sagree	
7.26 As part of a future performance regime the setting of minimum performance outcomes or standards should be considered								
7.27 There should be consequences for Local Authorities that fail to meet minimum Standards								
7.28 If you agree, what consequences should there standards?	e be for Lo	ocal Author	ities that f	ail to m	eet	mir	nimum	
7 20 Should financial popultion he used as an incent	vo for porf		Iteomos	Yes	N	0	Don't Know	
7.29 Should financial penalties be used as an incention or standards?						ן נ		
Digital Councils								
7.30 How should Local Authorities be encouraged to make greater use of digital channels and social media?								
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	ee		rongly sagree	

7.31 Local Authorities should decide should decide whether members of the public can record Council meetings									
7.32 The public have a right to report live from any Council proceedings, through written or electronic media									
7.33 Local Authorities should make arrangements to allow the public to make their views known on agendas of the full Council, the Executive of Committees in advance of meetings									
Complaints									
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	ree	Strongly Disagree			
7.34 Local Authorities should have an online, as well as paper based, complaints process									
7.35 Local Authorities are already required to report on complaints made with regards to social services, they should be required to report on all complaints made about their services									
7.36 Is an Authority's Audit Committee best placed to complaints (including data on number of compla	aliness of	Yes	N	o Don't Know					
their resolution, etc)?									
7.37 If no, who would be best placed to consider such a report?									

Chapter 8: Strengthening the Role of Review

Chapter 8 discusses the important role of internal and external review in supporting Local Authorities to deliver better outcomes for local areas. We believe the internal and external review processes do not currently work together well enough. The Chapter discusses how we will strengthen internal scrutiny to ensure it has a greater impact on Local Authority decision making. We also discuss the benefits of sharing information between the different external review bodies and with internal scrutiny. The Chapter also discusses how external review bodies should work together more.

Der	nocratic Services									
					Yes	Nc	Don't Know			
8.1	Do you agree that the Head of Democratic Service role?									
8.2	Should the requirement preventing the Monitori Head of Democratic Services be removed?	ng Officer fr	om also bei	ng the						
	8.3 How might we strengthen the independence of the Democratic Services function from the leadership of the Local Authority?									
Pla	nning for scrutiny									
						No	o Don't Know			
8.4	Is it appropriate to put in place a system of "key			1						
8.5	If introduced, how far in advance should the Executive be required to set out "key	3 months	4 months	6 months	Othe		Don't Know			
	decisions"?				Please specify					
	what extent do you agree or disagree with the wing statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree			
8.6	Scrutiny Committees should be required to establish short, medium and long term scrutiny plans									
8.7	Scrutiny Committees should be required to set out who they will engage with as part of their scrutiny plans									
8.8	Scrutiny Committees should be required publish their scrutiny plans									
					Yes	No	o Don't Know			
	Should co-opted members on Scrutiny Committee	ees be allo	wed to vote	?						
8.10	What is your reason for this answer?									
8.11	If yes, what circumstances would voting take pla	ace?								

Local Public Accounts Committees									
				Yes	N	lo	Don't Know		
8.12 Should Local Public Accounts Committees be e	stablished	in Wales?			٢				
8.13 How might a Local Public Accounts Committee	operate in	practice?		•					
Giving communities a voice in scrutiny									
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the	Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagr	ee		rongly		
following statements:	Agree		Agree or Disagree			Dis	sagree		
8.14 Scrutiny Committees calls for evidence should			Dicugree						
be directed to relevant local community based									
representative bodies									
8.15 Individuals and representative bodies should									
be able to petition scrutiny committees									
8.16 How should a scrutiny committee be required to	consider a	and respond	d to petitions	\$?					
Yes No Don't									
8.17 Should Local Authorities establish a 'public que				Yes	IN	0	Don't Know		
the public would be given the opportunity to rais Council?	se issues w	ith the Lead	der of the			7			
Regional scrutiny arrangements									
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the	Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagre	ee	St	rongly		
following statements:	Agree	, .g. e e	Agree or	2.00.9.			sagree		
	0		Disagree				0		
8.18 Where a regional delivery mechanism is									
established , for example through joint									
commissioning, a joint scrutiny committee									
must be established	dal interact	with local a	orutiou?						
8.19 How would this regional scrutiny committee mo		with local s	Scrutiny ?						
Strengthening links between External and Internation	al review								
				Yes	N	ю	Don't		
0.00 Observative security in such as a discussion of the second stress in the second stress is a second stress in the second stress					<u> </u>		Know		
8.20 Should the audit, inspection and regulation bodi					٦				
reports with relevant Audit or Scrutiny Committee 8.21 Should the relevant Audit or Scrutiny Committee					├──				
to scrutinise the findings from audit, inspection a					٢				
8.22 Should the audit, inspection and regulation bodi									
relevant Audit or Scrutiny Committees of a Loca	al Authority	to present	their finding		Γ				
when requested to do so?									
8.23 How else could links between external and inter	rnal review	be strength	nened?						
Strengthening links between external review									
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the	Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagre	эе	St	rongly		
following statements:	Agree	Ũ	Agree or	Ũ			sagree		
	-		Disagree				- 1		
8.24 The audit, inspection and regulation bodies									
should be required to come together to plan a									
joint timetable of work with regards to Local Authorities				_					
8.25 This joint timetable should be published on					\dashv				
the single information portal when established									

23

	Every year	Every 2 years	Other	Don't Know					
			Please specify						
	orities be de	eveloped?	/						
	Even	Every 2	Other	Don't					
				Know					
of the			Please specify						
health of Local Government be produced? Image: Specify Image: Specify 8.31 How should this assessment of the health of Local Government be developed? Image: Specify Image: Specify									
Ctrongly		Nicithor	Discourse	Chronoly					
Agree	Agree	Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree					
to be part o	f the purpos	se of extern	al review?						
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree					
	of the ocal Govern Strongly Agree Colored Author Strongly Agree Colored Colore	Image: strongly Agree A	Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Strongly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Strongly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Agree Agree Agree or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Agree Or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Agree Agree Agree Agree Or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Agree Or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Or Disagree Image: strongly Agree Or Disagree Image: strengly Agree Or Disagree </td <td>Image: second second</td>	Image: second					

8.40 Informing policy and practice, beyond individual organisations.					
8.41 Are there any issues or barriers which would pre functions?	event exter	nal review	bodies perfe	orming thes	e
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The key attributes of external review are:					
8.42 Proportionality: proportionate to the risk, potential for improvement, likely benefit and interests of citizens. It applies in terms of deciding whether to use external review and in deciding its nature, scope and duration					
8.43 Independence: it must not be constrained by any party in reaching its conclusions and publishing its findings. It must be free to make judgements about service delivery and report its findings into the public domain, and it must be able to decide how it discharges its responsibilities once its focus has been agreed					
8.44 Accountability: external review must demonstrate and report on the impact of its activities. Assessments and findings must be accurate, fair and capable of being defended					
8.45 Collaboration: external review must collaborate in the interests of greater local impact, greater cost effectiveness and to reduce the burden on those being reviewed					
8.46 Value for money: external review should be able to demonstrate it delivers benefits commensurate with its cost					
8.47 Transparency: external review must be transparent in all its activities, its focus, decision making criteria, business processes, assessments and reporting. Reports must be clear, independent and consistent					
8.48 Professionalism and competence: external review must be conducted in a way which demonstrates professional integrity and competence. It should be credible, consistent and impartial in all its activities					

Chapter 9: Finance

Chapter 9 discusses the way Local Government is funded and how this will need to change to support the reforms outlined in the White Paper in the shorter term, and also the need for a more fundamental review of the system in the longer term.

Our	vision					
9.1	What are your views on the proposed phased a changes needed to effect mergers and the reformore fundamental changes to the system in the	rms set out	in this pap			
9.2	What specific features do you think a new finan	cial framew	ork for Loc	cal Governm	ent should	exhibit?
9.3	What specific aspects of the existing local taxat (The existing local taxes are council tax and not	•		implified?		
Gen	eral revenue funding – distribution					
To v	what extent do you agree or disagree with the wing statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
9.4	The distribution of central funding should take account of the relative need of each Local Authority, based on the demographic, social and economic characteristics across Wales					
9.5	The distribution of central funding should take account of the ability of each Local Authority to raise income from local taxpayers					
9.6	What would you change about the existing fund flexibility?	ling distribu	tion mecha	anism to pro	mote greate	er
9.7	What would you incorporate into a future fundin	g distributio	on mechan	ism to prom	ote greater	flexibility?
Fina	Incial Governance					
9.8	How do you think Local Authorities could engag their spending priorities?	je more effe	ectively wit	h residents	before dete	rmining
9.9	How do you think information about the results to residents?	from engag	jement exe	ercises could	l be made a	vailable
9.10	How can we ensure financial plans are robust, s	strategic an	nd sustaina	ble?		
9.11	What financial information should Local Authori	ties publish	?			

Any other comments

9.13 Are there any other issues we should consider as part of our programme of Reforming Local Government in Wales, for example matters relating to policy, legislation or implementation?

10 Impact Assessments

This section asks questions in relation to the impact assessments which will be undertaken and published in support of the Draft Bill which will be published later in 2015.

The questions are specifically seeking further evidence and information on the issues of Welsh Language, Children and Young People, and Equalities in relation to the proposals set out in the White Paper.

	h Language					
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
10.1	The proposals set out in this White Paper will generally support the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh Language – laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.2	The proposals set out in Chapter 2 (Balancing the responsibilities of National and Local Government) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.3	The proposals set out in Chapter 3 (Renewing Democracy) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.4	The proposals set out in Chapter 4 (Connecting with Communities) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.5	The proposals set out in Chapter 5 (Power to Local Communities) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.6	The proposals set out in Chapter 6 (Corporate Governance and Improvement) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.7	The proposals set out in Chapter 7 (Performance in Local Government) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.8	The proposals set out in Chapter 8 (Strengthening the Role of Review) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.9	The proposals set out in Chapter 9 (Finance) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.10	What do you see as the positive impacts/effe Welsh Language?	ects of the p	roposals se	et out in this	White Pape	er for the
10.11	How might these be further developed?					
10.12	What do you see as the negative impacts/eff Welsh Language?	ects of the	proposals s	et out in this	s White Pa	per for the
10.13	How might these be mitigated against?					

Children and Young People	Otre	Δ	NI - 941.		04
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
10.14 The proposals set out in this White Paper will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families					
10.15 The proposals set out in Chapter 2 (Balancing the responsibilities of National and Local Government) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families					
10.16 The proposals set out in Chapter 3 (Renewing Democracy) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families					
10.17 The proposals set out in Chapter 4 (Connecting with Communities) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families					
10.18 The proposals set out in Chapter 5 (Power to Local Communities) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families					
10.19 The proposals set out in Chapter 6 (Corporate Governance and Improvement) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families					
10.20 The proposals set out in Chapter 7 (Performance in Local Government) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families					
10.21 The proposals set out in Chapter 8 (Strengthening the Role of Review) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families					
10.22 The proposals set out in Chapter 9 (Finance) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families					
10.23 What do you see as the positive impacts/effe children, young people and their families?	cts of the p	roposals se	et out in this	White Pape	er for
10.24 How might these be further developed?					
10.25 What do you see as the negative impacts/e children, young people and their families?	ffects of th	e proposal	s set out in	this White	Paper for
10.26 How might these be mitigated against?					

Equalities

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
10.27 The proposals set out in this White Paper will generally have a positive impact on equalities issues					
10.28 The proposals set out in Chapter 2 (Balancing the responsibilities of National and Local Government) will generally have a positive impact on equalities issues					
10.29 The proposals set out in Chapter 3 (Renewing Democracy) will generally have a positive impact on equalities issues					
10.30 The proposals set out in Chapter 4 (Connecting with Communities) will generally have a positive impact on equalities issues					
10.31 The proposals set out in Chapter 5 (Power to Local Communities) will generally have a positive impact on equalities issues					
10.32 The proposals set out in Chapter 6 (Corporate Governance and Improvement) will generally have a positive impact on equalities issues					
10.33 The proposals set out in Chapter 7 (Performance in Local Government) will generally have a positive impact on equalities issues					
10.34 The proposals set out in Chapter 8 (Strengthening the Role of Review) will generally have a positive impact on equalities issues					
10.35 The proposals set out in Chapter 9 (Finance) will generally have a positive impact on equalities issues					
10.36 What do you see as the positive impacts/effe equalities issues?	ects of the p	roposals se	et out in this	White Pape	er on
10.37 How might these be further developed?					
10.38 What do you see as the negative impacts/e equalities issues?	effects of th	e proposal	s set out in	this White	Paper or

Other Issues

Are there any proposals set out in the White Paper that have particular issues with regards to the following areas:

10.40 Privacy

[how personal information, related to groups or individuals, is collected, stored, protected, shared and managed as a result of policy development and delivery]

10.41 Rurality

[how the needs of the people who live, work, socialise and do business in rural areas are objectively considered in policy development and delivery]

10.42 Health

[how the health and wellbeing of a population may be affected by a proposed action]

10.43 Biodiversity and Habitat Regulations

[how biodiversity might be conserved and enhanced to halt the loss of habitats and species, and to take action to restore and enhance them by a proposed action]

10.44 Climate Change

[how proposed actions will contribute to reducing emissions by 3% in devolved areas.]

10.45 Environmental Impact Assessment

[how protection for land with special environmental, historic or cultural importance may be affected by a proposed action

10.46 Strategic Environmental Assessment [how environmental issues are considered as part of proposed action]